

Decision Record/Rationale and Finding of No Significant Impact
for Gerard Road Rehabilitation and Fuels Project Environmental Assessment

EA#OR134-EA-02-015

Decision

It is my decision to implement Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) in order to prevent resource damage to the surrounding area and to the Salmon Creek watershed from further deterioration of the Gerard mining and timber sale access road located west of the main Salmon Creek Road in T35N R25E S32 near Ruby Townsite. The road also constitutes a safety hazard that must be addressed through management. Management actions to be implemented include constructing water bars, constructing a gate, burning slash and reducing weeds along the road.

Monitoring of the road will be conducted following project activities to determine if management actions were successful at reducing the resource damage and eliminating the safety hazards.

Rationale for the Decision

Implementing the proposed action will greatly reduce the amounts of surface erosion coming off the Gerard road surface, some of which would likely end up in Salmon Creek. The proposed action will reduce the threat of a wildfire starting or moving through the BLM property by reducing the piles of fuels adjacent to the road. Weed populations along the road and on the road surface will be reduced through chemical treatment and by planting grasses. These actions are required to prevent resource damage to BLM lands and adjacent private property.

No sensitive cultural, wildlife, plant, or hydrologic features were found during project inventories, but if any of these are located, any ongoing project activities will be stopped until the new conditions can be evaluated by the appropriate project specialist.

The No Action Alternative (Alternative 2) was considered, but it would not meet the purpose and need for the project and it would be irresponsible management in light of the existing active erosion and fuels conditions.

Finding of No Significant Impact

This EA will be available for a 2-week public review. Due to the nature of the actions being implemented, the management actions are expected to be favorably received. Any public input received during that review period will be considered and may result in an amendment to this decision.

Based on the attached environmental assessment, the above rationale, and other available information, I have determined that the selected alternative does not constitute a major Federal action affecting the quality of the human environment, constituting a Finding of No Significant Action (FONSI). Therefore, an EIS is not necessary and will not be prepared.

The EA was available for a two-week public review, and no comments were received.

James F. Fisher, Field Manager
Wenatchee Resource Area

Date